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Moser
Patterson &
Sheridan, LLP
—— attorneys at law

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December 8, 2004

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TO:

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703/872-9306

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ORIGINAL TO

FOLLOW?

☐ YES ⊠ NO

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 8, 2004

U.S. SERIAL NO.:

09/848,573

FILING DATE:

May 3, 2001

INVENTOR:

Bates et al.

EXAMINER:

Andrew Fischer

GROUP ART UNIT:

3627

CONFIRMATION NO.:

6829

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PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010084US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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DEC 68 2344

In re Application of:

Bates et al.

Serial No.: 09/848,573

Confirmation No.: 6829

Filed:

Dec-08-04

May 3, 2001

For: Systems and Methods for

Operating Vending Machines

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Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner:

Fischer, A.

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF FAX 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 703/872-9306 to the attention of Examiner Andrew Fischer on the date below:

December 8, 2004 Date

Joseph M. Jong

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 8, 2004

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 8, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 8, 2005, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. While no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

Page 1

RFOA-100804